

Special Session

Agenda Item #	2
Meeting Date	May 17, 2004
Prepared By	Jessie Carpenter
Approved By	Richard M. Finn, City Mgr.

Discussion Item	Resolution proclaiming May 27 as Rachel Carson Day in Takoma Park
Background	<p>This resolution is before the City Council at Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane's request.</p> <p>The Rachel Carson Council has encouraged local governments to proclaim May 27 as Rachel Carson Day. May 27 is the birth date of Rachel Carson, the author of <i>Silent Spring</i>, the groundbreaking book on the dangers of pesticides. On this day, residents of Takoma Park are encouraged to consider the dangers of pesticides and refrain from all pesticide use for the day.</p>
Policy	
Fiscal Impact	None
Attachments	Draft Resolution Pesticide-Free Day Pledge and Information from the Rachel Carson Council
Recommendation	Consider adoption of the resolution.
Special Consideration	

Introduced by: Councilmember Austin-Lane

**Resolution #2004-
Proclaiming May 27th as Rachel Carson Day in Takoma Park**

- Whereas,** worldwide exposure to pesticides is greater than most people realize; and
- Whereas,** more than three billion kilograms of pesticides are spread on the earth annually, exposing both human and wildlife populations to chemicals, with potentially serious repercussions for life everywhere; and
- Whereas,** more than 40 years ago, the well-known writer, scientist and ecologist Rachel Carson alerted America and the world to the potential hazards of pesticides in her landmark book *Silent Spring*. Despite the warning, the quantity of pesticides used in our country has continued to grow over the years and poses a potential threat to all life forms; and
- Whereas,** it is again time to increase public awareness of the potentially serious dangers of using excessive amounts of pesticide.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Takoma Park, Maryland, that we proclaim May 27, 2004 as Rachel Carson Day throughout Takoma Park, in honor of her prophetic work, and urge residents to focus their attention on the potentially serious hazards associated with pesticides; and

Be it further resolved that we invite residents throughout Takoma Park to observe this day, the birth date of Rachel Carson, by refraining from using pesticides on this day and ask residents for their cooperation in seeking alternative methods of pest management.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, ____.